

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05000 131840Z

64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 AGR-20 IO-13 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15

STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01

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R 131802Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2810

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PASS USDA/FAS FOR GRAIN AND FEED DIV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: UNCERTAIN WHEAT SUPPLIES

REF STATE 135419

1. IN NATIONAL ADDRESS ON JULY 11, UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE GIBERTI CRITICIZED PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMITTING FOR EXPORT MORE WHEAT THAN AVAILABLE. NATIONAL GRAIN BOARD ON THE SAME DAY STATED THAT 1972-73 WHEAT PRODUCTION WAS ONLY 7.9 MILLION (FAS AND TRADE EARLIER ESTIMATED 8.2 MILLION TONS) BUT MAINTAINED THAT SUFFICIENT STOCKS AVAILABLE FOR MEETING EXPORT COMMITMENTS AND LOCAL NEEDS.

2. WHEAT PRODUCTION IN 1972-73 NOW ESTIMATED AT 8.0 MILLION OF WHICH 7.45 MILLION TONS IS BREAD WHEAT AND 550,000 TONS DURUM. DEDUCTING PREVIOUS BREAD WHEAT CONSUMPTION ESTIMATE OF 4.2 MILLION, 3.2 MILLION TONS AVAILABLE FOR MEET EXPORT COMMITMENTS OF APPROXIMATELY 3.1 MILLION. IF, HOWEVER, CONSUMPTION FIGURE CLAIMED

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 05000 131840Z

BY SOME SOURCES OF 4.6 MILLION ACCEPTED, ONLY 2.9 MILLION TONS

LEFT FOR EXPORTS, A SHORTFALL OF 200,000 TONS.

3. THESE UNCERTAINTIES EXPLAIN NATIONAL GRAIN BOARD'S DECREE THAT ALL WHEAT SUPPLIES NOT SOLD BEFORE JULY 10 BE REPORTED SO AS TO ASSESS SUPPLIES.

GRAIN BOARD'S ACTION ALSO INTERPRETED AS MEASURE TO ASSURE THAT STOCKS BEING HOARDED AS A REACTION TO MAXIMUM PRICE BE DELIVERED.

4. REDUCED DELIVERIES DUE TO PRICE CEILINGS REFLECT DISCOURAGEMENT AND PARTIALLY EXPLAIN THE DROP IN SOWINGS THIS YEAR. AGGRAVATIONS OF RECENT EXCESSIVE RAINFALL ALSO CAUSE OF REDUCED SOWINGS AND REDUCTION IN 1973-74 WHEAT OUTPUT PROJECTION TO 7.2 MILLION TONS. BASED ON REPORTED SOWINGS A YIELD OF 1,800 KILO/HECTARE NECESSARY TO PRODUCE EXPORTABLE SUPPLY SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S. WHEAT YIELD REACHED 1,600 KILOS/HECTARE LAST SEASON UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS, TO SECOND HIGHEST YIELD IN PAST 10 YEARS.
KREBS

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